4

Syn. 7. 60. 166.

THE WARRES OF SWETHLAND.

WITH

THE GROVND AND

Originall of the said VVarres, begun and continued betwixt SIGISMOND King of Poland, and Duke CHARLES his Vnkle, lately Crowned King of *Swethland*.

* * *

With a Certificate of the worthy Seruice of three English men, against the King of *Swethland*, being forced thereunto by the King of POLAND.

(5)

BG*g.31

LONDON.

Printed for *Nathaniel Butter*, dwelling in Pauls Church-yard by Saint *Austins* Gate.

1609.

Qu. Printed by F. Kingston?

9-10;16

TO THE RIGHT HONOVRABLE AND Most Noble minded louer of Learning PHILIP, Earle of *Mongomerie.*

Vch (Right Honourable) as haue purposed to please *Hector*, haue still presented him, with Horse and Armour, because his chiefest delight was in Martiall Discipline, and such oblations best fitted his humour. For by this, and the like presidents is noted, how all haue sought in their presents to keepe a *Decorum*: Hauing therefore composed this little Treatise that concernes the designes of two Kingdoms: I haue thought good (aduenturing the Pardon of your Lordships discretion) to passe the same vnder your Honourable Name, as well for that your Experience is already

knowne to be ſufficiently inſtructed in the affaires of our owne Countrey: Being deſcended of moſt Honourable Parents, educated in the moſt liberal Sciences, and mannaged in one of the moſt Royall and famous Courts of Europe. As alſo for that the cuſtome of Honorable diſpoſitions, hath alwayes (next after that) labored the knowledge and inſight of forraine Eſtates and cõditions. That they may not only deſerue well of their owne Countrey, by this their induſtrie, but alſo ſpread their owne fame, as farre as their Countrey is knowen.

Your owne worth is the principall motiue that emboldens me to ſhroude it vnder your Patronage, as one that is a fautor and fauourer of vertuous Actions, and whoſe Honourable loues growne from the generall applauſe of the Common-wealth for your high deſert, may keepe it from the malice of bittet tongues:

Commaunded thus with this conſideration, I preſume to preſent my Booke vnto your Lordſhip: And humbly intreate, your Honour will bee pleaſed to vouch of my Labors and fauour a Schollers penne with

with your gracious acceptation, who answeres in affection, what hee wants in eloquence. So shall I rest deuoted vnto you, and bestow my future Studies to effect matter of better deseruing, Euer remaining

* * *

Your Honours most humble

affectionate.

ANTH. NIXON.

The true Copie of a Letter Certificatorie, written in commendation of Captaine *King* of *Ratcliffe*, M. *William Bardwell* and *Alexander Child* of *Redriffe*, Masters of three Shipps of *London*, for their memorable seruice against the *Swethens*, being thereto compelled in Summer last, 1608.

IOhannes Carolus Chodkiewich *Earle of* Seckloro Bychor, *and of* Misra, *Captaine of* Samogitia *and* Porpatie, *Generall Commissioner of* Lyffeland, *and chiefe Generall of the Army of the great Dukedome of* Lytawe. *To all and singular, to whome it may appertaine, or that shall reade these Presents, I doe let to weet, that whereas* VVilliam Bardwell, VVilliam King, *and* Alexander Childe *English Gentlemen, came*

with three Shippes at Riga, *when the Earle of* Manſfielde *Generall of the Army of Duke* Charles Suderman, *periniuriouſly breaking the Truce, made warre in* Lyffeland, *I helde them there, and employed them in the ſeruice of Warre for the moſt excellent King of* Poland, *my moſt gratious Lord, and they vndertooke to defend the Dunn, wherein they did behaue themſelues very faithfully, manfully and valiantly, ſo that the ſaid Earle of Manſfield was often by them driuen backe againe to his great loſſe and ſhame, and likewiſe hee was often aſſaulted by them, ſo that hee loſt not onely his ſtrength of men and his courage, but alſo loſt ſome Shippes with many men and goods, which the ſaide Engliſhmen with a memorable courage, and to the notable glory of the Engliſh Nation, did ſet on fire and burne. And therefore I haue thought good to grant vnto them this Teſtimoniall, to the end that they may haue great thanks for their deſerts, purchaſed by their good renowne and name, and that others may ſee, that as fame & immortality belongeth chiefly to noble minds, ſo alſo it is gotten by vertuous and valiant deedes: Written in the Campe at*

the

the new Mill in Lyffeland *the ſeauenteenth of Nouember,* Anno Domini *1608. And is ſubſcribed by* Iohannes Carolus Chodkiewicke, manu propria, *and ſealed with a Seale in Redde waxe, Printed thereupon,*

Ita teſtatur *Carolus Demetrius,* Notarius Publicus.

THE ORIGINALL GROVND OF The preſent Warres *of Swethen.*

CHAP. I.

The daungerous plots laid againſt *Guſtavus* in the life time of his Father: His flight to *Lubeck* in Germanie in the habite of a ſlaue, His ſtrange entertainment there, &c.

THis is like a briefe Cronicle, that comprehends in it much matter in few lines, and vartous buſineſſe in little circumſtance. It preſents to your reading the deſignes, and affaires of a ſpatious kingdome, and reacheth to the beginning of many yeares paſt. Underſtand therefore that the Countrey of Swethen, before it was aduanced to the dignitie of a kingdome, by the allowance of the Empire, and generall conſent of their owne State, was a long time gouerned by the authority of foure Dukes, bearing the Titles of the foure Prouinces, into which the Countrey is deuided. The firſt is the Dukedome of Doland, hauing in it a Regall

a Regall Castle, called Vpsale, where the kings of Swethland be Crowned and buried. The second is the Dukedome of Newland, where the Castle of Newkeeping stands. The third is the Dukedome of Finland, where the Dukes seat is called, Oua Castle. The fourth is Warmland, where stands the Castle of Wasten vpon the Mediterrenian Sea; being the strength, and Bulwarke of the kingdome. The Countrey being (as I say) a long time ruled by these foure Dukes, in the kind of an Aristocratie, that is, The gouerment of the Nobilitie, as was the gouernement of the first, and former Romane Peeres and Consuls: Was in the end of the Raigne of Henrie 7. King of England, made a Monarchie or kingly gouernment.

The first Monarke or King hereof, was called Gismond, whose Sonne, named Gustovus succeeded his Father in the kingdome. This Gustovus (being in the life time of his Father, Duke of Doland) was a Prince very absolute, both in the perfections of his body, and his mind, excellently composed in the one, and honorably disposed in the other. Of an indifferent stature, neither too high, nor too low. His complexion sanguine, his haire bright, his countenance cherefull, and pleasant to looke vpon, full of grace, and Maiestie. In warre stout, and industrious, in Counsell wise, and full of respect, in the Court he carried such a Port and State, as attracted all eyes to gaze vpon him. In priuate places full of affabilitie and delightsome recreation: To conclude, it seemed that Nature and vertue had both ioynd together to frame in him the most absolute patterne of a Prince in his time. But as no excellency whatsoeuer is without malignant opposites, so this Prince found that olde saying to bee true, Virtutis comes inuidia, plerunq; bonos insectatur. For the Dukes of the other Three Prouinces, being ioynd with him in Commission (for you must vnderstand, that the foure Dukes did still retaine their titles, and authoritie vnder the King, as the Senate of Rome did theirs vnder the Soueraintie of Cæsar, though it were subordinate:) The o-

ther

ther three (I say) emptying that greatnesse, loue, and opinion, which his vertues, as well as the Nobilitie of his blood had got him, sought by many deuises to betray him, whom no honourable mind, but would haue defended, and to this end, they bent all their courses: A plot (no doubt) ful of honour and regard vnto the State, the protect whereof was either the murther, or disinheritance of so lawfull a Prince; Falshood and Enuie the accusers, Suggestion and Subornation the informers. Thus was the plot laid, The Quéene (being mother in law to Gustovus, and hauing a Sonne by the King, and borne since the kingdome was erected) as farre as she durst (for she yet feared the greatnesse of Gustovus) did many times buze matters of iealousie and suspition into the Kings eares, of his sonnes cariage of himself in the kingdom, which at first he did not either beleeue, or dissemble. The three Dukes knowing the Quéenes mind towards the Prince, added fuell to her fire, alleadging that she should neuer finde a sure establishment for her selfe and her sonne in the kingdome, if Gustovus were not made away. The heart, that before began to burne with this desire, was now more incensed, hauing those three Noblemen, the principall Counsellours of State in the kingdome, to further her intendments. The Quéene being throughly instructed by the Lords, takes the aduantage of time, in her complaint to the king, Tels him that his sonne aspired, and would shortly aspire against him, that he affected popularitie, receiued like Absolom his subiects Petitions, not in loue, but Ambition: That he kept a Court, and Port greater then the King, and that all his actions did more sauour of Soueraignty, then subiection. The Lords, they second the Quéene in her vniust information, alleadge matters probable to confirme it, The King beleeues, and in the error thereof, hates Truth, imbraceth Treason. Thus all being inuerted, Nature rebels in the Father, but Loyaltie remaines in the Sonne. The plot was hereupon laid for his apprehension, Gustovus being then at Court, who noting a straunge alteration in his Fathers

countenance towards him, began to suspect the drift of the Queene, upon the distrust of the Noblemen about her: Himselfe being almost abandoned, deuiseth with himselfe how to anoyd the daunger. A Gentleman of the Kings, comes secretly to Gustovus, and tels him that the plot was laid that night, for his Attainder. The Prince being amazed at the suddaine imminence of such a perill, posteth presently from the Court with a few of his Retinew, and the next day recouers his Dukedome of Doland, where he meant to stay, till he heard further of the Kings proceedings. His departure was soone made knowne, at which the Queene, and the Lords (though they miss of their purpose) were not much sorry, forknowing that his suddaine flight from the Court in that manner, would strongly confirme their accusation. The King by them againe is incensed, and messengers sent into Doland, by whom the Prince was Summoned by a certaine day to make his appearance in Vpsale Castle: which the Prince refuseth to doe: affirming by his submissiue Letters to the King, that though he knew his cause to bee iust, and his heart loyall, no probable suspition of any misdemenour from him, either in act, or intent, that yet neuertheless he durst not hazard his life in the heat of the kings displeasure, for that he knew his aduersaries were so great in power, and in so gratious account, that it would be an easie matter to haue his Maiesties grace, and Nature her selfe peruerted to his vntimely and vniust destruction: And that the onely cause why he retired himselfe into his owne Countrey, was to stay the time, vntill these mists of his Maiesties iealousie and suspition were blowen away, that the Sunne of his allegiance might shine cleere, farre from the cloudes of all distrust, or disloyaltie. This answere being returned, but not accepted, the King by the Queenes continuall instigations was more, and more prouokt, insomuch that a great power was suddenly raised to fetch him by violence out of his Dukedome. Which the Prince perceiuing, and being neither able, nor willing to resist his Fathers forces, gines way

to

to neceſſitie, and in the habite of a ſlaue, purpoſeth ſecretly to goe into Germanie. And hauing paſt ſome daungers in his flight by the Kings purſuers, at laſt he croſſed the ſeas, and holding on his courſe for Lubeck in Germany, not many dayes ſafely arriued there. All this while he kept his diſguiſe, for though he knew that the Lubeckers were heretofore beholding to him, yet he doubted what minds they would put on in this chaunge of fortune, Remembring Pompeyes vſage in his flight by Ptolomie King of Egypt, and the like of Hannibal by Pruſius king of Bithunia.

Chap. II.

Guſtauus is diſcouered in Lubecke: The Lubeckers take his part, The King his Father dies, He recouers by their meanes the Kingdome of Swethland.

The newes (being arriued in Germany) of Guſtauus his flight out of Swethland, before his comming thither, was diuerſly intertained in Lubeck: Some pitied the ſtate and condition of the young Prince, that ſo Noble a Gentleman, ſo full of hope, and expectation, euen in the prime of his youth, ſhould in this vile manner ſuffer violence: Others ſpake againſt him, ſuppoſing that his owne naturall Father, and others of his blood, would not in this manner haue proceeded againſt him, if he had not ſhowne himſelfe dangerous vnto the State, as the mindes of the people are in this caſe diuerſly diſtracted. The Prince after his comming to Lubeck ſtaied certaine dayes in a common Inne, not daring to diſcouer himſelfe, and to auoid the ſuſpition of a ſtranger in ſuch common places, found meanes to preferre himſelfe vnto a rich Merchant of the Towne (if ſuch a place in the meaneneſſe of his fortune at that time may be called preferment.) Being there entertained, he contented himſelfe to doe any bodily labour

bour in the house, striuing to suite his minde vnto his misery, yet could hee not so well counterfeit this part of his sinister fortune, but that the Merchant did soone suppose him to be a better man then hee seemed to bee, and perhaps the man hee was. So hard a thing it is for Nature to learne to forget her custome. Staying some few moneths in the Merchants house, hee heard of a Gasant sent from the king to the State of Lubeck, being supposed hee would bend his course thither. The tenor of the Gasants message, was to deliuer to the Lubeckers that the kings desire was, that either they should not entertaine him at all, or els send him backe to Swethland, for that hee was knowen and proclaimed to bee an enemie. But they being at that time ignorant of the Princes abiding, answered for the time to those things, that might stand with the Kings pleasure. The Gasant being dispatcht, Gustovus liued in a continuall feare of being discouered, as well for that many great men in the Towne had before seene him in Swethland, and might then remember him: As also for that his Master would many times pry into his countenance, and behauiour, and vtter strange words, and shew strange passions, euen in his presence, sometimes repeating the name of Gustovus.

The Prince holding thus a Woolfe by the eares, in doubt whether to stay or goe, (in both which he found danger) was wonderfully perplexed: Sometimes he thought to discouer himselfe, opposing his mind against the worst of fortune, that if the Towne did betray him, his blood should be shed in Innocence, and he be rid of that torment: wherin his mind was diuerstly distracted betwixt Hope, and Feare, and Feare the predominant: but at last resoluing with himselfe to stay, hee still framed his mind vnto his businesse. One day cleauing of wood, in the straining of his bodie, a button that held the flappe of his Jerken, brake, and therewithall a little Chaine of gold, whereon did hange a Jewell of inestimable price, fell from his necke: Which a maid seruant in the house (being by) perceiuing, was desirous to see it: but hee suddainely snat-

ſnatching it vp, told her that it was a thing of no worth, but giuen him by a friend of his, in the remembrance of her. The maide diſſembled her opinion for the preſent, but ſoone after told it to her maſter. The Merchant vpon this accident, confirmes his former ſuſpition, and hauing now matter more relatiue then before, enformed the State of Lubeck with this circumſtance. The Burgomaſters of the Towne, ſitting then in Counſell, ſent for the ſtranger by a guard, to come before them, How the Meſſage was entertained by the Prince, let them iudge that haue vndergone the like aduentvre. There was no denial, nor poſſibility of eſcape, Obey he muſt, And it is a hard thing when Princes muſt obey. Being brought before the Magiſtrates, it was demaunded of whence he was? he anſwered, of Swethen. They aſkt him of what degree? He told them, as meane in birth as in fortune: what mooued you (quoth they) to forſake your Countrey? The Prince replied, my vnkind vſage there. A principall Senatour of the Towne looking all this while ſtedfaſtly vpon his countenance, perceiued that it was Guſtovus, and whiſpering the reſt in the eare, aſſured them, that it was the Prince. The matter was before concluded what they meant to doe, Whereupon this great Citizen began to ſpeake in this manner. Your birth (quoth hee) is farre better then your fortune, Therein you diſſembled, but your fortune beares the blame, your firſt and laſt anſwere is true, for we know that you are of Swethland, and your name is Prince Guſtovus, and the vnkind vſage of your Countrey hath driuen you from thence: what we meane to doe, you ſhall vnderſtand ſhortly. In the meane time repoſe your ſelfe ſecurely and hopefully in the rulers houſe. The Prince acknowledged himſelfe, and thankt them for theſe ſignes of their good will. And if you ſhall find (quoth he) my protection, or defence to prooue dangerous vnto your State, Let my life rid you from that feare: I ſhall be well content, ſo I may free you from danger, to be your Sacrifice; Whereupon they all imbraced him, with the teares ſtan-

ding in their eyes, every one honouring him, and putting him in great hope and comfort, They caused him presently to be inuested with royall ornaments, and in all honourable and louing manner, conuayed him that night to the rulers house. The Prince stayed as prisoner, but honourably attended about two yeeres in Lubeck. During which time, the king his Father sent diuers Gasants with faire words, and large promises to haue him deliuered, but it would neuer be granted; Howbeit they promised that they would keepe him safe from attempting any innouation. The Prince during his stay there would often visite his old master, whom he would alwayes call his kind master, affirming that if his discouery had not bene made knowen, he could as contentedly haue liued a poore seruant in his house, as he did then a princely prisoner in the Towne: The Merchant would many times tell him, he had much adoe, to keepe himselfe, from the sinne of pride, for that it was his fortune, to be master of such a seruant.

Within two yeeres after, the king his Father died, and the State of the Countrey proclaimed the Queenes Sonne, King of Swethland. Gustovus had quickely intelligence thereof, as such newes flies euer with the Swallows wings, receiues Letters from many Noble men, and other of his friends in the Countrey, wherein he was aduised to vse all meanes possible for his return, with assured confidence of their assistance The Prince shewes the Letters to ỳ Lubeckers, solicits them in his own behalfe for aleaging them princely promises of their requitall. The Prince returnes to Swethen full of hope and encouragement, His friends meete him in great multitudes with all signes of loue and obedience: His enemies are dispersed without battaile, some fled, some taken prisoners, the Queene with her sonne conuaied to Vplale Castle, The three Dukes beheaded, and all the rest pardoned. When all things were established, and the summes of money paid backe to the Lubeckers, Gustovus was shortly after with all solemnitie Crowned king of Swethland, and

not

not long after was honourably married out of Germanie, His Queene being nobly borne in that Countrey, By whom he had foure ſonnes: Prince Erick the eldeſt, Duke of Doland, Iohn Duke of Finland, Magnus Duke of Warmland, and Charles the youngeſt Duke of Eſtergutland, that now liues and inioyes the Crowne of Swethland.

Thus Guſtovus Raigned peaceably and happily, Laden with many peeres, but with many more Trophies of honors, The care and loue hee bare vnto his ſubiects was well ſeene in their reciprocall reſpect to him. His ſonnes brought vp in all princely knowledge, acknowledged faithfully their naturall duties during his life, Though after his death they fell at vnnaturall debate, one with another.

In the laſt of his peeres he ſhewed the beſt of his affections, different from the obſeruance taken in other Princes, who after a long continued Soueraignetie, doe much decline from the gentle behauiours of their beginnings. But at laſt (as euery thing is vnſtable, & each eſtate, that hath being in this world, holds his vncertaintie) This noble king deceaſed, at that time, wherein his life was moſt deſired of his ſubiects: whoſe loue had bene the like vnto his ſonnes, had it not bene croſt by the nature of the tumultuous times that followed: The dead corps being now the ſadde remnant of a king, was with all ſolemnitie conuaied and enterred in Vpſale Caſtle: His friends following it with all tokens of ſorrow, calling him the prop̃e and protector of Religion, the defender and preſeruer of his Countrey, the honour and glory of the Swethen Nation. His fame went before him, dilating his Noble acts, and princely vertues, that (not buried in the graue with him) returned backe, poſting through the world, and ſtill ſounding forth the prayſes of Guſtovus, whoſe name ſhall neuer die, ſo long as the memorie of the Swethen State indures.

Erick

Chap. III.

Ericke is crowned King of Swethland, after the death and Funerall of his Father: A marriage is plotted with *Elizabeth* Queene of England, That failing another is tendered to the daughter of the King of Poland, His brother Duke *Iohn* conspires against him.

After the death of Gustovus, Erick his eldest sonne is with all generall applause, and the Countries ceremonie, crowned king of Swethland about the yeere of our Lord 1559. and in the same yeere an ouerture of mariage was made with Elizabeth Queene of England in the beginning of her raigne. Duke Iohn his brother sent Ambassadour (princely appointed) in this negotiation, who safely arriuing in England with his whole Fleete, was honourably intertained. Howbeit the matter of his Embassage, was rather flattered, then graunted, rather fairely countenanced, then embraced, For some noble men at that time, great in their places, either in their owne respects, or the honour of the Queene, stood against it, But the Queene her selfe did fairely intreate the Prince, royally feasted him, gaue him many princely gifts, Told him in conclusion, that she tooke the Tenor of his Embassage in very gratious manner: Sent kind commendations to the king his Brother, with this hopefull message, that if it pleased him to take the paines to come into England, she would take such order for his entertainement, that hee should haue no iust cause to returne discontent. For (saith she) I haue made this vow, neuer to contract my selfe to any, whom I haue not first seene. The Duke thus furnisht with this answere, takes his leaue, imbarkes

barkes himselfe, hoyseth saple, arriues in Swethland, and deliuers to the longing languishing King this hopefull doubtfull answere of the Quéene. The young King imbraceth this newes, and his brother for them, flatters his fancie, fitteth the Quéenes picture, beguiles imagination, builds Castles in the ayre, rigges his Fléete at Sea, exhausteth his Treasure, makes himselfe poore to enrich his hope, which proued indéed, farre aboue his Fortune. The Winter following was spent in this preparation for England: During which time Frederik then king of Denmarke, a Wise and politike Prince stoodmuch against this Alyance with England, foreséeing the danger that might redound to himin his neighbours marriage, with so potent a Princesse: sendeth Ambassadours to King Erick, shewing both the inconuenience that would happen by marriage in a Countrey so farre remote, as also the dangers that were like to ensue, in toyning with a Quéene, more strong then himselfe. But the king gaue a deafe eare to this Embassage, Continuing his preparations still for England: Some say, that in that Winter ryding betwéene Vpsale, and Wasten Castle, a Maide of excellent beautie, but obscure parentage, whose name was Gondole comming amongst others to behold the king, who by chance, casting his eies vpon her, was so sodainly enamored in her beautie, that that poyson which he drew then into his heart by his eies, did so corrupt the whole body of his affaires, that at last he losse both his life, and kingdome: but others say it was the winter after. But to returne to our voyage for England, The kinges fléete being royally rigd, and all thinges ready for so great a businesse, the king toke shipping about the beginning of May, leaning Duke Iohn his brother Vicegerent in his place, and sayling along the Coasts of Norway, Report saith that Frederick king of Denmarke had procured certaine Witches in that Countrey to drowne, or dispearse the Fléete of king Erick, and by their spelles and deuillish incantations to Confound this intented Voyage, whether this bee true or no, I know not,

but this is certaine, that the king being vpon the coast of Norway, such a strange foggy, thicknes did so cloath the ayre that the kings Fleete had some losse sight of one another: And then followed such horrible thunders, and vnheard of Tempests, that it seemed heauen and earth had met together in the disturbance of this intendment. The king being at his wits end long before hee came to his wales end was so perplexed in his thoughtes, that he knew not what to do, either to goe forward or to returne: The sight of ỹ Eye was so taken away by the the thicknes of Aire, the benefit of the Eare was confounded by the noyse of the thunder, the waters rose so high as if they meant to kisse the Cloudes: Noe light but what the flashes of lightning made which amased them all, the raine fell so thicke that they could scarce keepe the Hatches, the maister calles to the Boatson, and is not heard, the Sterne-man crves to the Maister, and is not regarded. Three daies together, continued these three nightes of darknes, wherin was seene neither sunne Moone, nor starre: the kinges Fleete was diuerſly dispearst, some into the coast of Denmarke others back againe into Swetland, the king himselfe vpon the Coast of Norway lookes euery howre for his buriall in the Sea. At last entering into cogitation with himselfe, he thought that God had suffered his pride to be thus punisht, for that he vndertook a Marriage with such a Queene, whose fame and glory was so great, as well from her State, and gouernment, as for the riches and strength of her Crowne, and kingdome: that entring into consideration of it, he held himselfe much vnworthy of such a fortune. Vpon this, the king rashly vowes that if it would please God to deliuer him from that daunger, he would giue ouer his ouer high attempt, returne into his Countrey and learne hereafter to suite his desires to his estate. At last these stormes haue end, the king returnes according to his vow, shortly after arriues in Swethland, And thus fayled this Negotiation for England.

The king some after his landing beginnes (say some) renewes

newes (say others) his loue to his faire Gondole: that afterward proued as fatall to him, as Cleopatraes loue to Anthony: His eies were seldome off either her person or her picture: His minde museth on nothing but the pleasures of her body, his tongue speakes of nothing but her delightes, and praises; all publicke affaires are abandoned, the pallaces are like a wildernesse desolate, the Court is kept where Gondole hath her byding; reason, and regard of gouerment, are now banished, pleasure and sensuallitie made his Counsellors of Estate. The Noble men would oftentimes admise him, but all in vaine, his brother Duke Iohn did still smoth the Kings humors, not as being enamoured of his delights, but as from hence drawing a subiect that happily hereafter might serue his turne, in case the Nobility (as they beganne a little) should afterwards wholly withdraw their affections from him. Thus whilest the king followes his pleasures Duke Iohn pursues his purposes, would oftentimes complaine to certaine of the Rexen-Roade, which we call The Blood Royall, of his brothers effeminate and vnkingly gouernement, but especially to Duke Charles his youngest brother, yet no further engaging himselfe to danger then he knew meanes how to wind out againe. Not long after, another Marlage was tendered of the Polands Daughter, which the king Couloarably entertained to satisfie his Nobility, whilest his heart doted vpon his Paramour. Duke Iohn his brother was imployed in this businesse, and it fell out as he desired: For if the cardes were dealt aright, he might happely himselfe mary the Polands daughter. And thus with a false heart taking a faire leaue of the king his brother being furnished with all accowtrements fit for such a busines shortly after arriued in the Court of Poland, where after the solemnitie of such entertainements he deliuered his Message with such a Maiesticke grace both in his speech, countenance and cariage of himselfe (as sure hee was a most accomplisht Gentleman) that it wan him great commendations in the kings Court especially with the yong princesse,

in whose tender heart there was such an inward breach made, as was soone outwardly perceaued, for her eyes that conuayed these pretie assaultes vnto her heart, did soone betray her hidden affections: which the Duke perceiuing lates hold vpon the occasion, Winnes by rewardes many tongues to speaken in his behalfe, toyes with the greatest of the Kings Counsell, and in especiall with one Fernsbecke Duke of Leif-lande. He told them that the condition of his Countries disordered estate, occasioned by the discordant disposition of his brother, mooued him rather to looke with a publike, then a priuate eye: If he ought nature and dutie to his Brother, he ought no lesse vnto his Country, and it was his countries cause (to the which hee was most bound) that made him inueigh against his brother? Let no man (quoth he) rashly censure me, but comparing the State of the kingdome to the condition of the King, let him then iudge whether all is not like to ruine, if preuention be not made, which in the Kinges person (quoth he) will neuer be, for that he seemes to be buried in his his owne delightes, and the breath which he himselfe should drawe, lies not in his owne, but in anothers body. The most and best part of the Nobility being by these, and the like suggestions wonne vnto his party, a way was quickly made for the Duke to Wooe for himselfe, which was not long a doing for the heart, that was already so strongly assaulted, was soone framed to yeeld. To bee short the young Duke Weddes and beddes the princesse with great honour, and delight, So easily is the pollicie of a state drawne to obey the necessity of the time: the newes hereof is soone brought to Swethland, wherein the wise lookt into the danger of the King, how be it the King himselfe foresaw no peril: But as a Man wholly deuoted to his delights, doth against the aduise of all his friendes, quickly after Marrie the said Gondole, whereby he did sodainly runne into such a scandalous hatred of his owne Subiectes, that they euer after held him vnworthy of his Crowne and kingdome: Within a yeare after his

Mariage

Marriage he had a Sonne, not long after whose byrth Duke John hauing assured promises from his youngest brother Duke Charles, procures an Army to be leuied by the King of Poland, his Father in law, and arriuing in the Dukedome of Estergutland, was louingly entertained of his brother Duke Charles, who ioyning their forces together, hauing also the ayde of other Noble Men in the Country, gaue battaile to his brother King Ericke, who being ouercome, and flying to Stock-holand, was there by his two brothers taken, and made away, no man euer knew how. A noble man in the Countrey, brother to Herrerick Gutterson, and deare vnto the King was at that time honorably slaine in the defence of his Prince. The Quéene had before sent her young Sonne out of the Land, foreséeing the danger that was like to happen. Who now liues as an Exile in the great Duke of Moscouias Court, and the Quéene her selfe confined to Stickborrow Castle, where shee yet liues a sad and solitary life. Thus ended the vnfortunate Raigne of King Erick, who might long haue lined and gouerned in the Land, had he but subdued his owne affections.

Chap. IIII.

King Iohn is crowned king of Swethland: hath a Sonne borne called *Sigismond*: The King of *Poland* dies: young *Sigismond* is sent for to be King of *Poland*: Hee staies there certaine yeares till the death of his Father, and is then sent for by his Vncle Duke *Charles* to receaue the Crowne and kingdome of *Swethland*.

DUke Iohn hauing thus by his brothers murther attained vnto the Crowne, disposeth with his best Counsell the affaires of the kingdome, disperseth his Army, satisfies his Subiects in the cause of these indirect procéedings, against his brother, and hauing set all things in order, sendeth for his Quéen out of Poland,

who with an honorable traine being conducted into Swethland, was there Royally entertained, and shortly after with Duke Iohn her husband, in all princely manner, Crowned King and Quéene of Swethland at Vpsale Castle: Many Statutes he repealed which the King his brother had made, being found prejudiciall vnto the Country, and others hee enacted, that were held more profitable: To all Suitors he shewed himselfe very gentle and gracious: And because the treasure of the kingdome was much exhaust in his expedition into Poland, he was driuen to borrow many great Summes of money both there, and of his Friends at home: Hee kept a Princely port, and was very liberall in his rewardes, delighting much in all Martiall exercises. His liberality was equall to that which was so highly commended in a worthy Captaine of Thebes, who when hee had obtayned a victory against the Lacedemonians, tooke onely of all the spoile but one sword, distributing the rest amongst his Souldiors, saying, Fellowes in Armes this I Challeng because I wrong it out of the hand of mine Enemie. Whatsoeuer else is yours, as the reward of your trauells, for, the Theban Senatours warre for honour, not for treasure. The Mercenary Man that beareth Armes for hier, and for his ordinary Paye, feareth not to venture his life in the face of his Enemy, hauing but his wages, hath but his due: So that if hope of spoile, and the bounty of his Captaine did not encourage him in his attempts, he would both doubt the danger of his person and scorne for so little gaine to ranne vpon such imminent perills. His liberality towards his associats in Armes, and his experient wisedome and valour in Partiall enterprises made him both honoured feared, and held in worthy estimation. Thus by this and his other vertues Duke Iohn in short time Crept into the hearts of his Subiectes. The first yeare of his raigne the Quéene brought him a goodly Boy which was Christened by the name of Sigismond, the Emperor being his Godfather, which Sisgismond, is now King of Poland.

About

About the Tenth yeare of his raigne, King Iohn made an honorable iourney into Russia, vpon the breach of a League made betwixt them. From whence he returned victorious. The rest of his raigne was quiet and peaceable: And let a side the staine of his brothers death, he was doubtlesse a most excellent Prince and worthy of the Crowne and kingdome, and although there were many times iarres betwixt him, and his brother Duke Charles, yet alwaies the matter was so handled, that they were soone reconcilde againe. By which were cut off all occasions of Ciuill warre. In the twelfth yeare of his raigne his father in law the King of Poland dies, for whose death the Quéene his daughter mourned heauily. The young Prince Sigismond her Sonne was elected King of Poland, and with an honourable conuoy being guarded thither was with all solemnity in all Princely manner Crowned King of Poland: Shortly after Marries honourably into the house of Austria; and in the twelth yeare of his raigne in Poland, King Iohn his Father dies: whose death being much bewailed of his subiects, he was with appertaining solemnitie buried in the Chappell of the Kings in the Castle of Vpsale. Duke Charles of Estergutland after the death of his brother sends into Poland for his Nephew Sigismond to come to receaue the Crowne of Swethland, Sigismond takes heauily the death of his Father, and deuines before hand of the troubles that followed in that kingdome: Great preparation is made for his iourney into Swethland, and doubting of his vnckles minde & proiectes, carrieth a great power of Poles with him to preuent all daungers. The king arriues safely in Sweathland, is with all honor and signe of loue receaued by his vnckle Duke Charles, and the rest of the Nobilitie of Swethland. He is honorably conueyed to Vpsale Castle, where hee was louingly receaued of the Quéene his Mother, whom he comforteth being a sorrowfull widdow for the death of King Iohn her husband. Shortly after he was crowned K. of Swethland without any disturbance. A Key-day was

held

held in the castle of Vpsale, where all things being establi-shed, Duke Charles is made vicegerent of the kingdome: hauing with him ioynd in Comtition foure Noblemen, of the Rexen-road whose names were Hergusten Bonner, Hersten Bonner, his brother, Herrerick Spare, and Har-tor Belke: These fower Noble men, being great in the king-dome but not very great with the Vicegerent, were of pur-pose ioynd by the King in commission with the Duke to curbe or Controule all over haughty and headstrong at-tempts, that the Duke might happely Commit by the great-nesse of his place and power in the absence of the King, who was then ready to returne to Poland. The Duke perceaues the drift, but dissembles it. before the Kings departure, order was set downe by the King with the Duke and the Com-missioners for the payment of certaine sommes of money, which King Iohn his Father did owe vnto many Souldi-ours, that were yet vnpaide since the time of expedition in-to Russia, and vnto many Marchants of England, Scotland and other Nations for the prosecuting of that warre. After all things were thus setled and ordered, the King returnes to Poland, leauing behinde him that fire that afterward consumed the peace of the whole Kingdome: for the Noble-men, the Commissioners being commanded by the King, (that was euer iealous of his Vncle Charles) to obserue and enforme his Maiestie of the manner of his gouernment, did so oppose themselues against him in all his proceedings, and especially in the payment of this money, that the Duke plainely perceiued, that this new gouernment was but laide as a trap to ensnare his life, A Iust day was holden at Vp-sale, no order Concluded, nor money paide, and much adoe there was to keepe them from factions, the Commissioners would haue these summes paid out of the Subiectes purses, the Duke out of the Common Treasury: which the com-missioners refuse, alleaging the Kings want of money, The Duke writes faithfully, The Lords fally to the King. To whom they intimate feare of innouation, and that the Duke

by

by all likelyhoods aimed at the Crowne, that he had paid parte of the money due to the Souldiours out of the Reuenues of the Dukedome, to draw their affections to him, that he sought to further the State, and wealth of the Commons more then stood with the loyall nature of a Subiect, that he kept the Porte and State of a King rather then a Deputie, and that it was not like he would long yeeld his honors vnto Vassalage, whose fortunes in such a minde and State as his might attaine to Soueraignty, if preuention were not speedily made. The Duke intercepts these letters, and sends them inclosed in his own vnto the King, to whom he writes very humbly, and with all protestations of duty, and allegiance: the King receaues the letters, but beleeues the Lords and distrusteth the Duke, sendeth secretly to the Commissioners that they should sodainely surprize him, depose him from his gouernement, and to that end he sent his authority: and finally to keepe him prisoner, his wife and children, during life in a castle built of purpose for that stratagem within the dukedome of Luco: Oh that the nature of fortune should be so fickle and vncertaine, neuer singular either in her frownes or fauours, but that commonly in the height of any hope it produceth some crosse accident of vnhappy misfortune.

The Duke notwithstanding hauing intelligence of this plot, beganne to looke about him, hasted into his owne dukedome and raised a great power of men, Some say that if hee had but staide one houer longer in Vpsale, the plot had beene effected, and the Duke vtterly vndone. The Lords were in a maze vpon the Dukes departure, knowing that their deuise was discouered, they now perceaued their owne weakenesse to resist the Duke, being in power, place and opinion, and farre aboue them, And though they had the Kings authority, yet was he farre from them, and they neer vnto their danger, they knew not well what course to take, sometimes they purposed to flie to the King, and then they feared the waies were forelayd. To stay in the Castle of

Vpsale were no safety, it being a place of pleasure, not of defence: whereupon they determined to depart from thence: Three of them vnto the Castle of VVasten in the Dukedome of Finland, and Hartourbelk to Calmer Castle. Having their Castles deliuered vnto them, they purposed to stay there to vnderstand the Dukes proceedings, and in the meane time dispatcht letters vnto the King of the particulars of these troubles: The Duke (as I sayd before) hauing raised a great power of men, marcheth speedily towardes the castle of Vpsale, but vnderstanding of the Lords departure towards Wasten, bends his course thither. It is a world to see what numbers of men came vnto the Duke from all parts proffering their seruice to him: All which hee gently welcomed. Some he entertained, and the rest sent home againe with speciall charge to looke vnto the Kinges peace, signifying further that the cause why hee was now vp in Armes, was but to right himselfe of such wrongs done by those Lords, who neither loued the King nor him. The Lords that were in the Castle of Wasten vnderstanding of the Dukes approach with such a power of men, sodenly forsooke the castle, and not being able to defend it, fled in all hast to Poland, whome the Duke would not pursue, but taking the castle put in a strong Garrison, and presently hasted to the castle of Calmer, which Hartourbelk had a little before taken in the Kings name, who standing at defence and defiance with him, the Duke besiegeth both the Citie and castle, the citizens more willing to entertaine him, then resist him. The Duke plants his ordnance against the Gates of the Citie, and thereupon the Citizens resisting the command of Hartour Belk, open the citie Gates and receaue him in: The Duke besiegeth the castle, and in short time by the helpe of the Towne Winnes it, takes and keepes Hartour Belk prisoner, and dischargeth all the rest.

From hence the Duke sent letters to the King, informing truly the cause of these troubles, That the vniust attempts of the Commissioners against him, did moue him to raise

these

these powers in defence of his state and liberty, not in the disturbance of his Maiesties peace, nor to make any innouation in the Land, & beseeching him that no false or fained suggestions of his aduersaries, might stand as a barre betwixt his Maiesties grace towards him and his owne fidelitie: Affirming further that it lay in his power to stopp their passage into Poland and that hee would at the Kings pleasure disperse his forces, surrender vp the castles, that he had taken, be content to resigne his charge of gouernment, to whõsoeuer it pleased the King, Prouided that hee might bee assured of the quiet enioyment and peaceable possession of such Lands and honors, as he was born vnto by Nature: and this (quoth he) I learne of necessity, which teacheth euery creature to defend it selfe.

The King receiues the Dukes letters, but giues no credit to his protestations. During the time of the Dukes stay in the City of Calmer, and vnderstanding of many disorders, and misdemeanors that were committed in a Nunnery, standing in the Towne, One daye Came to visit the Nuns, accompanied with certaine gentlemen of his house, and vnderstanding some of their mindes to be discontent with their orders, and some of their bodies well knowne to the Friers, dissolues the Nunnery, and transposeth the Nunnes, according to their own disposing, Some into other nunneries, many to their Friends, the most to Mariages. The King by this time had answered the Dukes letters very coulorably, that hee was sorry for the iarres that happened betweene him, and the Lords, That as soone as his businesse would giue him leaue, he would visit the Lordes, and him. In the meane time he requested that hee would deliuer Hartourbelk, or intreat him kindly. The Duke though hee beléeued not what the King had written, yet hee receaues the letters gladly, and honourably feasted the messenger. In this time another dangerous plot was laide, to entrappe Duke Charles, and to enforce him Prisoner, in the Castle of Litto aforesaid, whereupon there were forces very secretly, and

sodainely raised in Finland, The king hauing a purpose to winne to that powre, other forces that he meant himselfe to bring out of Poland, and appointed a day of meeting in Stock-holland.

Chap. V.

The Duke hath intelligence of the plots that the King and his aduersaries had deuis'd against him. He encounters part of the Kings army, and discomforts them, with other accidents.

THe Duke hauing intelligence of this dangerous plot, deuised against him by the king, assured himselfe to finde no fauour at his hand: that no submissiō would serue ỹ turne: For him to disperse his powers, and to stand rather vpon the protestation of his allegeance then his guard, were to put his neck vpon the block, and to indure the stroke: for raging streames are not stayed with gentle hands. Wherefore calling his friends about him, hee told them that it was now no time to dally. That the king by his aduersaries was so prouokt against him, that nothing but his death or deprivation would satisfie the kings displeasure. These vnwilling armes (quoth hee) that I now beare, are for the defence of you, and my Country, vnto which I owe my life, and what soeuer else is deere vnto mee. I see (quoth hée) the drifte of the king, and my aduersaries, 's to ouerthrow our customes, and to gouerne you according to the Polish Pollicy, which is vnfit for any free state. To pursue this, and to lay heauy yoakes vpon your necks, my life is sought after, which I shall bée alwaies ready to spend or end to doe you or my Country seruice.

His friends embrac't him, willed him to go forward, promised their aide, to the vttermost of their powers, and the

Duke

Duke lets slip no time, but presently seizeth vpon the Nauy of Swhethland hauing it before vnder his command, maruelling much that the King had not before that sent to seize vpon it himselfe, but thereby belike hee thought hee should haue ministred matter for the Duke to suspect his deuice, The Finland Fleete being vpon the Coast some few daies before the day appointed, the Duke hauing furnished the Nauy with men and munition, tooke the Opportunitie of Time, and with all expedition made hast to meete them before their ioyning with the Kings power, with whome had they met, they had put the Duke to a great hazard, The Finland Fleet consisted of three score and ten saile most of them vessels of great burthen, and in them 14 thousand fighting men, the Dukes forces by Sea were scarce so many. The Duke deuides his Nauy into two parts, the Finlanders into three. The Duke bearing as great a breadth in the front of his Nauy, as his aduersaries did, doubting least he should be engirt. The charge being giuen by the Duke was semblably answered by the contrary party, and now the voice of the Ordinance, (that was many yeares a stranger in those parts) carried such hideous noyse in the Land, as much amazed the quiet mindes of the inhabitants, when they heard that the harnest of their Peace was now like to be reap't by the vngentle hand of warre: Then began they to forethink the troubles that were like to follow these fearfull beginnings, but happely not to remember the causes thereof: it is either a naturall or Customary stupidity in man to be senselesse in the vnderstanding of their owne offences, Pride, Blasphemy, Auarice, Extortion, Luxury, and other the like enormities are in particular men the generall causes of the disturbance, nay sometimes of the depopulation of a whole kingdome, when the mindes of Princes corrupted with Ambition are stirr'd vp, though in their owne respects, euen by the power and sufferance of the almighty to plague (by warre his consuming Minister) the vnrepented sinnes of the people. But to returne to Sea, where the fight conti-

nued little more then two houres, during which time the ayre was so troubled with smoake, that the shippes at Sea could not see one another, and the beholders at lande might iudge by the eye, that they were turn'd into a cloude. But at last the Admirall of the Finlanders being stroke betwéen winde and water, did sinke in the midst of them all. Their fleete began to take about to hoyse vp their Sayles and flye, the Duke followed them as far as he durst, but being doubtfull of the Kings approch, made his returne the sooner, Landed his powers, and hasted with his army to Stockholland.

Vpon his comming to Stockholland hee vnderstood of the Kings landing at Calmer Castle, his whole Navy consisting of a hundreth Sayle, or there abouts, whereof there were eight and twentie English shippes, which the King had hired of the Marchants being then resident in that coast bearing in the whole fleete eight and twenty thousand fighting men: Duke *Charles* being aduertised of the newes, doubted what hee were best to doe, Sometimes hee was in minde to giue place vnto his aduersaries, considering the miseries that were like to attend this vncouth warre, And though hee knew himselfe well lyned with friends, in the kingdome, and that it might bee in his power to resist the king, yet when he reduced into his mind the Calamities that might happen vnto the Land by the maintenance of this warre, he did often perswade himselfe with Otho, rather to giue place to Vitellius, then to resist a Tyrant to the ouerthrow of his Country, but being otherwise aduised by his friendes, that counselled him either to take vpon him the soueraignty, or at least to maintaine himselfe in his place, as well for their liues as his owne, hauing all gone so farre that they could not retyre without irrecouocable danger, His courage ouercomming his feare, and the respect of the generality aboue his own particular, he resolued to prosecute the war but yet in such manner, that al the worlde might vnderstand hee did it rather to defend himselfe then offend the king, howsoeuer

soeuer his actes might be mistaken. Whereupon the duke remoues from Stock-holand into the hart of ỹ countrey to a hold called the castle of Lynnkeeping. By the way the King had taken the castle of Calmer, and detained the Captaine of the castle (placed there by the Duke) close prisoner. And though the Town was surely guarded by the King, and alwaies by him forelayd, to intercept all newes, yet a certaine Townesman vndertoke to carry the Duke intelligence therof, with the consent of the principall in the Town, such was the loue they bare vnto him. The Messenger because he could not passe the ports was let downe at a private, topning to the Towne Walle, and hauing past the kings Scowt-watch, that lay in diuers places houering about the Town, toke so circumspectly the aduantage of the time, ỹ in two daies he recouered the Dukes Army being vpon march, to the castle of Linnekeeping, The tenor of his message was, that on no conditions hee should trust the King, for that as well by the vsage of his officers in the castle of Calmer, as other principall intelligence giuen to some (that loued the Duke too well to keepe it close) that the king purposed his vtter destruction, and that there was no agreement to be made but onely tolerable (vpon any reconcilement) to forgoe a further mischiefe. The Duke though sad to heare these newes, yet imbraced, and rewarded the messenger. And vnderstanding there of the kinges remoouе from Calmer to the castle of Sterborrow to his sister Freking Anne, he bends all his forces thither, and within three daies after came within sight of the castle: he pitcht his Tent within a myle of the Towne, before hee attempted any thing in any hostile maner, sent some of his principall friends vnto the king, and humbly desired him to know the cause of these vniust warres vndertaken: If the fault lay iustly in the Duke or any of his adherents, they were content either to submit their liues to the law, or to the kings mercy, If any fault were supposed, or but suggested, they desired an indifferent Iudge. And if the fault were found (where in deede it lay)

they

they desired the same vpon their aduersaries. Finally he besought his Maiestie that he would measure the nature of ill tongues, not by their sound but by their quality, for there were some about him, that nether loued him, nor them, nor ꝑ land. The king receiued these messages, gaue faire but dissembled words, that if he would disperse his Army, he would discharge his. Confirme vnto him his place of gouernment, and other offices he enioyed in the kingdome, ꝓuided that Hartourbelk whom he detained as a prisoner, might be deliuered, and he with the rest of the Lords reconciled. The Duke answered to the first, that if it would please his Maiesty to disperse his Army, hee would doe the like, and for the other vpon due consideration he should find him conformable. Twelue daies were thus spent in messages interchangeably betweene them The Duke meaning faithfully, the king otherwise, Both their Armies they still retayned during which time, the trapp was laid to intrappe the Duke. That vpon an interuiewe betwixt them in the sight of both their Armies Fernbecke Duke of Leif-lande should rush in, and vpon the sodaine surprise the Duke, take him prisoner, and carry him to the Castle aforesaid. But missing of his purpose beeing throughly counterchanged by the Duke, his minde was much perplexed in the vncertaine euent of his expectations, his cogitations sought within themselues, when sometimes hee would lay the fault vpon such, as hee imployed in those businesses, Sometimes he would place one, somtimes displace another. In his owne iudgement thinking such a man fit to bee a Commander and sometimes another: hee would like one to day, and to morrow vtterly distaste him. To submit hee thought dishonorable, and worse then death, for by open disgraces, the fame of men growes odious. In this conflict of minde, the King retyres with the Duke Fernſ-becke to Steckborow, knowing that the fortune of warre had not so done her worſt, but that she might beginne a new Tragedy, and the rather for that his strength was weakened in the former assaults, hauing lost two thousand of his men in the same

saine : The Duke returning to the Leager, and resting there that night.

The next day the sunne had no sooner slept from the bed of Aurora, but the Dukes Fléet remoues from Finland to Stock-borow, beeing distante an hundreth leagues. The Kings fléete lies in a hauen betweene two rockes. Duke Charles his Fléete ryding in the Mayne, and the King perceiuing how he was charged by Sea and Land began to be diuersly distraughted, sometimes hee resolues to vndergoe a meane estate, alleaging that *medium est tutissimum*, and *Aulica vita, splendida miseria*. Cares are the Continuall Companions of a Crown, when rest remaines in a lowe condition and fortune. Low shrubs féele least tempest, In valleys is heard least thunder. In Country rooms is great rest, and in little wealth the least disquiet. Dignitie treadeth vpon glasse, and honor is like a fading herbe, that when it blometh most gorgeous then it blasteth. Sometimes hee thought to disguise himselfe & with his cloathes to change his thoughts, that beeing poorely attyred, hee might bee meanely minded, and measure his actions by the present fortune, not by his former estate. Yet in the summons of these diuers thoughts and cogitations, hée had some respective regard of his honour, though all faile, yet his heart should not faint, for the courage of a manis shewed in his resolution. In the middest of his extreames hee held it his safest course, to flye by night with all his power, & sifter, and friends, with a full purpose to attempt the winning of Wasten Castle, being thrée or foure daies iourney from Steckborow. But the Duke that had wated through many dangers, and in many aduentures both prosperous and lucky, had gotten such reputation, that he was highly preferred in the estimation of that Country put the King into such a Continuall feare of his pursuite knowing his strength vnable to match his Enemy.

The Duke vnderstanding the King to be vnstayed in his resolution, and to stand thus wauering betweene warre and peace (which danted the hearts of his people to bee seene in

field, leades his Army, plants his ordenance against the Castle of Steckborow and takes the kings fleete with seuen tunne of Gold, and all his regall Ornaments. The King had conuaied himselfe to the Castle of Linnekeeping, and was there royally entertained, howbeit in the middest of Solemnities, the sad newes of that vnhappy accident was brought thither vnto him: At the hearing ſ relation wherof, though hee was much agast, yet with that kingly courage that his vnfortunate succesſe had left him, he burſt out into this or the like passion. If my moderation (quoth hee) „ in prosperity had beene answerable to the greatneſſe of my „ birth, and state, or the succesſe of my last attempts to the re„ solution of my minde, I might haue come to Linnekee„ ping, in my accustomed honour, and Royalty, and not as a „ man thus wasted and spoiled, and to be rather gazed vppon, „ then honourably entertained. But what cloud soeuer hath „ darkned my present state, yet haue the heauens, and nature „ giuen me that, in birth ſ mind, which none can vanquish „ or depriue me of. I ſee that my enemies make their tri„ umphs, the subiect of my miseries, and in my calamity as „ in a mirrour may bee beheld their owne glory: yet let them „ know this, that I am, and was a prince, furnished „ with ſtrength of men, and abilliments of warre, and what maruell is it, if it be my chance to looſe, ſeeing experience tea„ cheth, that the euents of warre are variable, and the ſuc„ ceſſe of policy guided by vncertaine fates: The deſire of „ soueraintie admits no limitation, and if Duke Charles „ must command all, then all must obey. For mine own part „ whilſt I am able, I will make reſiſtance, and will bee vn„ willing to submit my neck to a seruile yoake: For so farre „ the law of nature alloweth euery man to defend himſelfe, „ and to withſtand force by force. This passion of the King filled the peoples hearts and eies with wonder, and delight, and with their beſt comfort and encouragement they promiſed their ioynt performances of duty. Insomuch as the King did therewith attempt the taking of Waſten Caſtle. But

hee

bee whom fortune had before strived to make vnfortunate did in this also faile, and hath nothing left him to glory in that attempt, but his losse of men, and of much expectation. These crosse accidents sat neer the Kings heart, who with much cares and travells had wearied his spirits, and greatly spent the strength both of himselfe, and his people. For whatsoever hee determined, was not carried with any such secret or politike course, but that by some meanes or other the Duke had some notice thereof, and still apprehended his drifts. For this was no sooner plotted, but the Duke sends letters secretly to the Captain, that he should not deliuer the Castle with his priuity.

The King lying in Linnekeeping sends five hundreth men secretly to surprise the Castle, yet was the same able to defend it selfe as indeed it did, and the Captaine therein performed the Dukes will, and retainde his credit, without impeaches of his valor. Questionmēt were made whether they might enter into the Castle in the kings name, but a peremtory answere was returned, that without mandatory letters from the Duke, there was nothing there to be expected but resistance: vpon this the kings mind was disquieted, and a world of inward Conflictes encountred his cogitations, as he stood doubtfully distract, what he were best to doe: at last as fire cannot be hid in straw, nor the nature of man so concealed, but that at last it will breake out and have his course: See fares it with the king, who perceiuing his pleasure to be like Sicke-mens wills that are parall (which having no hand nor seale, are the lawes of a Citie written in dust, and are broken with the blast of euery wind) commanded that forthwith the Duke and all his adherents, should bee proclaimed to stand in the state and nature of Traitors.

Chap. VI.

The Kings Armie, and the Dukes ioyne: Many on the Kings side slaine, and taken prisoners.

IT Was not long before this newes of the Kings proceedings, in this manner against the Duke was made knowne vnto him: at which the Duke beganne to put on a furious countenance, able to amaze any that made attempts against him, and loking like Hercules when hee aduaunte himselfe against Achelaus, he followes the King to Linnekeeping with all his power: And in a misty morning the morrow before Michaelmas day, ryses early, calles his Souldiours togeather, deuides his Army (consisting of fiftéene thousand men) into thrée seuerall bodies. One Iames Hill an English man had the leading of the first. Captaine Scot being his Lieftenant, Andreas Lemeston Leades the second the Duke, himselfe with the third, takes a wood within a mile of the Kings lodging: Here might you sée these thrée, shine like thrée meteors in the firmament, all in scarle, their Courtes were campes and none Courtiers, but Souldiours. Such effect did the fier of dissention worke in the hearts of these Enimies. Fortune turned the wheele of the Swethen and Polish state with vnsteady hand, and had now almost brought it to the point she meant they should sit: shee tooke her fauours from them: Or rather, to speake of a power that controules fortune, and whose very finger throwes downe kingdomes to vtter confusion, or holdes them vp in their greatnes, whether the generall sinnes of the people deserued this, or whether the people were punished for the particular faults of the Princes, or for what other cause soeuer, the rodd of vengeance was laide vpon these Nations,

At

It is in vain to thinke vpon, and feare, but not to examine. Yet sure it is, that as fire catching hold at first but of some meane cottage in some end or corner of a Citty, hath oftentimes (ere the fury of it could bee put out) swallowed vp in his flames the goodliest and most beautifull buildings, that stood euen farthest out of reach: So did the Clouds of discention burst open their vaines, and let fall the poison of them on these seuerall kingdomes.

In the expedition of these warres, one Lucas Righter vndertakes to performe the Dukes pleasure in the proclamation of his intended proceedings vnto the Kings Army, (which consisted of foure and twenty thousand men). The tenor of the Dukes proclamation made knowne his greeuances which although it be not answered to expectation, Yet Lucas Righter making his returne, is royally rewarded by the Duke, and appointed that day to attend the Dukes person. The next day following the mist breakes vp, and Armies discouer one another, A ryuer being betwixt the King and the Duke, eight thousand of the Kings Souldiers were appointed to make good the bridge. Captaine Scot full of Courage and valour, giues the Charge, but receaues the ouerthrowe: the like successe had Captaine Hill Andreas Lemerson seconds them, and bides the shock.

The Duke perceiuing this, issues out of the wood alone hartens his Souldiers, fills his ordinance (wanting shot) with pibble stones, and makes choice to encampe himselfe and his hoast, euen on the top of a Hill naturally defenced from passage and if any were, those hee stoppped vp with heapes of stones in manner of a Rampier: neare the foote whereof ranne a Riuer, with an vncertaine ford, where a troope of his best Souldiours were set in order to receaue the Enemy, and the more to animate the mindes of his men, the leaders went about exhorting, and encouraging the Souldiers, taking all occasion of feare from them, and putting them in hope with all incouragements of warre. And the Duke himselfe coursing

hither and thither, protested that that day should bee the full end of their misfortunes, and the beginning of their happinesse, or else his owne perpetuall seruitude and bondage. The Souldiers vpon this shewde as great forwardnesse, and as Eechoes redoubled his wordes, vowing neuer to yeeld, eyther for wounds or for life, which they were all ready to sacrifice in the cause of their Country: which resolution appeard in the squadron of Captaine Hill, who leading his Army, metts the Enemy with such a showre of shot, that many were slaine, and many wounded: Andreas Lemerson giues the second charge, and that with so fierce an encounter, that h: seizeth vpon the enemies ordinance, and turnes the same vpon them. In this conflict the Kinges Army is discomfited, eight thousand of them being slaine, drowned, and taken Prisoners. Vpon this sad successe, the King being in the Castle of Linnekeeping calles a Parley. The Duke vpon knowledge of the Kings pleasure, is willing to entertaine it, Messengers are sent enterchangeably, and vpon hearing and debating the grieuances one of another, the conditions are agreed vpon, the Duke to haue pardon for what was past, and whereas hee had one of his aduersaries already in his custody, it was likewise agreede, that he should haue the other These deliuered into his hands, being the fowre Commissioners that disturbed the peace of Swethen, which was performed accordingly, so as the Duke detaines them prisoners with their wiues and children: After this friendly coherence, the Duke rides to the King with fiveteene of his men, leauing charge notwithstanding with Lemerson, that if hee returned not, nor sent word to the contrary within halfe an howre, hee should come to him with his whole Army. The King and the Duke doe so well concord and agree, as they dine together, and are feasted very royally: all matters are pacified on eyther side, so as a Rex-day is appointed, and it is determined that the King shall haue his owne, the Duke

his,

his, and the disturbers of the peace their due. The King returneth to Steckborow to his Fleete, the Duke to Carborowgh where the Dutches lay. The Peace being thus concluded, the Duke dismisseth his Souldiers, and receiues Letters from the King, that hee purposed to passe into his Country with a thousand men, and desires prouision for them: The Duke receiues his message very kindly, and returnes this answere to the King, that if it pleased him, hee should finde prouision for two thousand. As this prouision was preparing, Fernsbecke Duke of Liefland perswades the King to returne with his power to Poland, and not to stand to the Articles of agreement, but to renew the warre, alleadging that he could neuer be absolute King of Swethen, so long as D. Charles lined: And this was the onely ground of the Ciuill warre that followed.

Chap. VII.

The King returnes to Poland, Duke *Charles* renues the warre against the King his Nephew, winnes the City and Castle of Calmer, and setleth the state of the Dukedome of Finland.

The King hauing thus falsified his own promise, and deceiued the Dukes expectation, returned with all expedition into Poland, landing at Danske with his Army, leauing the Castle of Calmer and certaine other holds adioyning, strongly manned and victualed for a yeare: Duke Charles being much discontented with this vnkingly breach of his Nephewes promise, knew now that it was no time to capitulate, and that no solicitation, nor any submissiue meanes would serue to appease the Kings anger, and to reintegrate himselfe into his loue and good opinion, called his chiefe

chiefe friends about him, to haue their aduise what was best to bee done in this weighty businesse: They all agrée that if it were possible they should recouer the Castle of Calmer that winter, and certaine other holds lately manned and victualed by the King: whereupon the Duke with his Army marcheth to Greenekeeping, a little City in Swethland, where hauing certaine dayes rested and refreshed his Army, he hasted to besiege the Castle of Calmer. The City being indefensible, yeelded vnto him at his first approach. The Duke hauing made his entrance into the City, deliuered sayre speeches to the Citizens, the iust cause that was giuen him to renue the warre, and that no ambitious desire or turbulent spirit of his owne, drew him so violently to these actions of hostility, but that he was full Master of his owne affections, and the necessity of the time in the Kinges incensed hate against him, did moue him to these Armes, that being (quoth he) at the first but priuate bet wixt him and the three Dukes his aduersaries, that alwayes maligned his estate, might very well without the generall disturbance of both kingdomes, haue been ended long agoe, and neyther hee helde guilty, nor the land defiled with the shedding so much Polish and Swethish blood, But sith the king had so vnkindly taken part with strangers against a kinsman, and had so vnnaturally laid their treacherous plots against his loyalty, nature and iustice were the faire protectors of his quarrels, that should defend the equity of his cause against the mouth of envy, or any such calumnious tongues whatsoeuer.

The Citizens that alwayes affect peace rather then war, looking into the condition of the disturbed States, were much perplexed in mind, and seuerally distracted in their opinions, being vncertaine how to stand affected. They knew that the right and title was in the King, but the power and authority in the Duke. The king had the commaund of the Castle, the Duke the possession of the City. Their feare exceeded their distrust, for both the Dukes Army that lay in the City committed many outrages, notwithstanding the Dukes strict

ſtrict Proclamation, and againe the ordinance of the Caſtle augmented their feare, and if Herguſten Boner that commaunded the Caſtle had had his wil, the Ordenance had béene bent againſt the Towne. The Duke ſatiſfying aſwell as he could the feare of the Citizens, beleaguers the Caſtle of Calmer, there being a great mutiny within the Caſtle betwixt the Poles and the Swethians, which ſerued excellently well for the Duke, for Herguſten Boner that commaunded the Caſtle vnder the King, agréede with the Poles to haue battered the City, which the Swethean Souldiers reſiſted, inſomuch that from wordes they fell to blowes, in which conflict the Swethens hauing the better, tooke Herguſten Boner Priſoner, together with all the Poles, being to the number of thrée hundreth, and knowing this Act to bee vnanſwerable to the King, ſubmitted themſelues, yelded the Caſtle, and gaue vp their Priſoners to Duke Charles. The Duke gently entertaines al but Herguſten Boner (his old enemy) whome hee ſent Priſoner to Greephollam, where hee remaines to this day. All the Poles hee ſent new apparrelled with white ſtaues in their hands, fairely entreated, to the King. The Duke hauing thus fortunately recouered the City, and Caſtle of Calmer, did ſtrongly Manne them both, and comforting the Citizens in the beſt manner he could, with the reſt of his Army marched into the Dukedome of Finland, it being a part of Swethland, bordering vpon Ruſsia, and there beleaguerd the Caſtle of Oua, and in few dayes wanne it, ſtill fairely entreating the Kinges Souldiers, which in all places wanne him great commendations, & hauing in ſhort time quieted the Dukedome returned backe with his Army to Stockehollam, where he reſted the remainder of that winter.

Chap. VIII

Duke *Charles* inuades the Dukedome of *Liefland*, ſurpriſeth moſt of the Townes and Caſtles of that country, and is in a manner abſolute poſſeſſor of the whole Dukedome.

Duke Charles knowing his principall aduerſary with the King to bee Fernesbeck, Duke of Liefland, (which countrey notwithſtanding it ioyneth with Swethland in law and language, had neuertheleſſe a kind of abſolute power and authoritie within it ſelfe) thought it beſt to beginne the warre in that countrey, that the eye of his aduerſaries loking into his actions there, the Kinges forces might not be bent againſt his owne countrey, the peace whereof hee much deſired, and to this end in the beginning of the Sommer following, hauing reinforced his Army, Marched into the dukedome of Liefland, The chiefe Citie whereof called Rauell yelded vnto him, into the which he triumphantly entered. The Cittizens themſelues, whether for feare of his power, or loue of his perſon, ſhewed ſuch tokens of ſubmiſſiue dutie, that there little letted a Conteſtation of their allegiance. Hauing there reſted certaine dates he rayſeth his Army and marcheth towards the Caſtle of Whettenſten, which in ſhort time was yelded vnto him. From thence he came to the City of Perno, which he likewiſe tooke in, placing there a ſtrong garriſon. He marched from thence to another ſtrong Citie called Durpe, and in fiue dates forced the Towne: fiue hundreth Polliſh Souldiours within the Towne ſubmitted vnto him with tender of their ſeruice, whom he gently intreated, & entertained. They euer after ſeruing him in all his wars very faithfully. The Liefflanders themſelues, noting the gentle behauiour of Duke Charles wiſht in their hearts all good ſucceſſe vnto him, though they durſt not ſhew it outwardly, for-

feare

feare of their Lordes displeasure, who in his rule bare ever such a rough hand ouer them, that hee seemed a Tirant or an vniust Vsurper, rather then an honorable gouernour, or a naturall prince.

Duke Fernesbeck hauing some intelligence of the sodaine inuasion of his countrey, raiseth with all the haste hee could, all the powers hee could make, being constituted by the King, Generall of his warres, and within a few daies landed in Liefland, whereof Duke Charles hauing vnderstanding, and fearing to be preuented, sent very secretly and speedily fifteene hundreth souldiours vnder the command of coronell Hill to surprise the citie of Venden, but (I know not how) the plot being discouered, and Ambuscadoes laide in the way by Fernesbeck, they were sodainly charged, and being weary and faint through a long marche, were soone ouerthrowne, and slaine, only the Coronell with seauenteene of his followers, the poore remaine of so many hundreds, making way with the sword, through the fury of the Enemy, did wounderously escape, bringing this sad newes backe to their Lord. The Duke, though it somewhat troubled him, yet shewed no signe either of feare or sorrow, but hartned on his souldiours to the reuenge of their fellowes deaths. There was nothing that aduantaged him more then his Celeritie in all his attempts, for whensoeuer any aduantage was proffered, hee would neuer pretermitte the least occasion. Duke Charles vpon the newes of this ouerthrow, vnderstanding of new succours shortly to come out of Poland in the aide of Fernesbeck sodainly raiseth his (Army, his Enimies supposing that the late ouerthrow had much quailed his courage, and nothing lesse suspecting then what he intended) marcheth with all speed to the Citie of Venden, into which Duke Fernesbeck but two daies before had made his triumphant entrance. The march was so speedily and secretly made, that they of the Towne vnderstood not of his remoone from Durpe, till they saw him with his Army before the walls of Ven-

den, Fernſ-beck ſtaying within the Towne, euery houer loking for his new ſupplies, when he ſaw himſelfe (thus vnlookt for) confronted by the Duke, and his Army, ſtood ſo amazed that a long time he was in doubt what it were beſt to doe. At laſt made a ſhew of reſiſtance of the Enemy, and defence of the Towne; till the approach of the night following, In which time he deuiſed ſuch a plot, that vtterly loſt his honor, and the Loue of all his friends within his Dukedome. For in the beginning of the night hauing throughly inſtructed his Commanders, and followers, what hee meant to doe, No Townesman ſuppoſing what he purpoſed, made an abſolute ſpoile of the Towne, ranſacking euery mans houſe, and carying away their plate, money and iewels, flyes cloſely away and leaues the Towne abandoned. Duke Charles had ſodaine intelligence hereof, and with all haſt purſues him, and in the way he takes certaine of Fernesbeckes Eſpials, whome hauing threatened, was by them conducted to the place where Duke Fernbecke that night encamped, and hauing giuen the charge to Coronell Hill, that was deſirous to reuenge himſelfe of his late ouerthrow, ſodainely ſet vpon them being at reſt, ſlew the moſt part of them, recouers the goods taken a little before ſo violently and diſhonourably out of the City, Fernsbecke himſelfe with a few of his followers hardly eſcaping.

Duke Charles hauing thus recouered his late loſſe, returnes with his Army to the Citie of Venden, where, with all acclamation of ioy hee was honorably entertained: Being thus ſeated in Venden, within two daies after his aboad in the Town he ſendeth Eight hundreth men vnder the cõduct of one Peerſlempe, a gallant Swethiſh Captaine, to ſurprize the Caſtle of Newhall bordering vpon Ruſſia, which was by him fortunately atchieued, who returning to the Duke gaue him preſently the command of fiue thowſand men, Coronell Hill being Steward of the feeld. The proiecte was to beſiege Cokenhouſe, being then and at this day the ſtrongeſt Caſtle in chriſtendome. The duke thought

if

if he could gaine this castle, he were then thoroughly possest of all the dukedome, hee himselfe purposed shortly after to second him. This gallant young gentleman with all speed, and with a full spirit marcheth to this honorable exploit, and encampeth his Army close to the walles of the Towne, which being very strong, & faithfull to their Lord, endured a long siege with great effusion of blood on both sides, but at the comming of the Duke, the Towne was taken, and vpon a breach in the entrance of the Towne, this young captaine was vnfortunately (but honorably) slaine with the shot of a Musket in his priuities, sent from the castle: Duke Charles was very sorry for his death, making a vow that he would neuer raise his Army, till he had either forced the castle, or followed the fortune of this gallant captaine. Three moneths the Duke lay before the castle with continuall batterie, and in the end takes it and keepes it at this day. Vpon the taking of the castle he was sufficiently reuenged for the death of Peereslompe. Thus all the castles, houlds, and fortresses, in Liefland, were in this Summer brought vnder the command of Duke Charles, onely the castle of Ree, which was second to none but Cokenhouse, was yet left vnassaulted. Duke Charles hauing thus in a manner the entier possession of Liefland, and being now wearied with this long toyle, hearing no newes of Duke Fernesbeckes returne, in the latter end of the Sommer, hauing ordered his affaires in that countrey returned to his dutchesse into Swethland, lying then in Stockholland, before his going he left the cities & castles in the dukedome, being thoroghly maned, vnder the gouernmẽt of his friends. The rest of his Army rested vnder the command of Coronell Hill, who hauing directions from the Duke at his departure, to attempt the taking of the Towne of Ree, together with the castle, set forwarde with hope and courage, while the Duke was vpon his iourney into Swethland, and encamped before the Towne of Ree, burnt the suburbes, assaulted the Towne, battered the walles, &c. But finding it stronger manned, then either it was supposed, or

stood at that time with his power to force, returned according to his directions to the Duke.

Chap. IX.

Duke *Charles* winters in *Swethland*: takes order for the renewing of the warre: The Sommer following is fought withall in *Liefland* by Duke *Fernsbeck*, and discomfited: His strange escape, and recouery of *Swethland*.

Duke Charles made his abode with his Dutches the Winter following in Swethland, hauing still privy intelligence from Poland of the Kings plotts, & proceedings. That Winter nothing was attempted, but in the prime of the Spring following Fernesbeck returned to Liefland with fiue thousand men. A greater power beeing appointed shortly to second him. Upon his landing he marched to the Towne and Castle of Ree, where he reposed himselfe to vnderstand what Duke Charles intended to doe: Many blamed the Duke for that hee let slip the taking in of the Castle, which if it had beene, Fernsbeck had had no place to haue retyred to in all his Kingdome. But it is an easier matter for a man to Censure then to act: words are soone spoke, so are not deeds performed, for Coronel Hill Attempted with the remainder of ỹ armyp, to do what was possible to be done, but the winter being at hand, which in that coast is very extreame, his men wearied and weakned with a long sommers toyle, euery mans naturall desire in ỹ Country to rest themselues in their stones, the winter season tooke away all possibility of winning the Castle Duke Charls vnderstãding of his Enemies arriuall at Ree, let slip no time, but suddenly raised his powers to the number of fifteene thousand men, tooke shipping at Stock-holland and landed with his whole

whole Army safely within two daies, within 15. myles of Ree. His purpose was to haue sodainely beleaguerd the Castle before the rest of his enemies forces were Landed out of Poland, which he vnderstood were ready to bee shipt: and to that end (hauing refreshed his Army) hee marched speedily and out of order, in the latter end of the day towards the Castle of Ree, supposing by the benefit of the night following, the better to haue ensconc't and fortified himselfe. But as no man, though neuer so circumspect, can warrant to himselfe the assurance or continuance of successe, and especially in the actions of warre, where fortune bears a sway: so this noble Duke found the nature of her fauours, which shee had powred vpon him, to be so vnstable, that in a Minute she snatcht from him, what a long time before she had prodigally bestowed. For Fernsbeck hauing intelligence of the Dukes landing, sodenly issued out of the Castle with three thousand of his followers, and hauing a place of great aduantage about three myles from the Castle, the way that Duke Charles must of necessity passe, tooke the benefit of the place and the night, lying there in Ambush for the Dukes comming, and giuing directions not to stirre till the vant guard of the Dukes Army had past them, and then sodenlie to charge the battaile, and the Rereward to giue the Alarum to the Castle, At which time a Polish Captaine with three thousand Poles was appointed to charge the vantguard of the Dukes: which on all sides was accordingly accomplisht. The Duke being in the Battaile, finding himselfe so sodainely and dangerously inuiron'd, gaue (according to the Time) the best directions, resist hee must of necessity, Retyre he could not, wherfore ryding chéerefully vp & downe his Army, gaue encouragement to his Souldiours, making still the danger lesse then it was, But Fernesbeck stirrd vp with a desire of reuenge, and recouery of his dukedome, and hauing aduantage of the place, so violently assayled, that at the first Charge he made a great breach into the body of the Dukes battaile, the like was performed at the instant vpon the rereward by one Stockland, a gallant young Polish Captaine.

Thus

Thus all parts of the Army beeing assaulted, that before was weary, weake, and fainte, through a long Marche, they were sodenly put into such a fear, as begat much amazement in them, so as men desperate of all hope to resist, they flong away their weapons and fled, hoping to saue themselues that way, wherein was least hope of safeguard. The Duke did what lay in his power to stay his flying Souldiers. But in this perplexed face of flight, where nothing but the Caracters of feare and despaire could be seene, no words could suffice, nor any commanders tongue be regarded, but in this confused manner they ran vpon their deaths, whilst the enemy stood ready to receaue them. And in this horrour of blood and massacre, the Dukes horse was slain vnder him, he himselfe hurt, and perceiuing no hope either by fight or flight, hee fell downe (as dead) among the dead Carcasses, retayning a hope that way happely to saue himselfe. Of fifteene thousand men, fourteen thousand and odde were put to the sword, the rest fled to their shippes. Euery man supposing the Duke to be slaine. The sad newes of this fatall ouerthrow and of the Dukes supposed death, was soone brought into Swethland, which vpon the hearing thereof, shewed such a generall face of sorrow, as if the whole land had put on one entire mourning garment, to attend his sad and vntimely funerals They now saw their Prince sodenly snatcht from them in the spring time of their hopes, & in the prime of all his glory, they found themselues naked, and open to the Polish Tyranny. They feared their Religion and gouernment would now be forced and adulterated by the tyrannous command, and superstitious customes of Poland, wherewithall they knew their King was wholly corrupted. No heart so Noble, no head so circumspect, no hande so victorious, to order the state, manage the affaires, and fight the battailes of their Countrey. Now he was dead all hope was buried, and all their happines, and freedom should be laid in the graue with him, and last but not least of their sorrow, they wanted his body to giue it honorable funerall.

But

But as this falſe newes made them true mourners, ſo this paſſion of ſorrow for his ſuppoſed death, was afterward turned into the contrary paſſiõ of ioy, for the Dukes ſtrange and vnknowne deliuery: to whome wee will now returne, hauing left him before among the dead carkaſes of his Souldiers. There was a young Gentleman of Swethland, attendant to the Duke (whoſe name I could not learne) that ſaw the Duke when he fell, thinking him with the reſt to haue beene ſlaine, and deſirous to doe the laſt ſeruice to his Prince, kept cloſe (hauing a place fitte for his purpoſe) hoping to recouer the body of the Duke, and finding in the darke of the night, a certain Gentleman of Poland, newly ſlaine, ſhifteth armour and apparrell with him, and hauing the Poliſh tongue, vndertooke as one of Fernsbecks ſouldiers to rifle the dead bodies, and hauing found the place where the Duke lay, all imbrued with the bloud of his Souldiers, and comming neere to raiſe the body, the Duke beganne to ſtriue: The Gentleman amaſed, aſkt in fayre termes if he were aliue: to whome the Duke replyed, Art thou my friend? the Gentleman told him his name and purpoſe, and ſith he was aliue, he ſhould horſe him ſelfe vpon the Gentlemans horſe, and flie vnto his ſhips, vſing the benefite of the night for his eſcape, while hee himſelfe would make what ſhift he could to follow after. The Duke being thus rayſed from this graue of bloud worſe then Golgotha, embraced him, thankt him, and ſpake theſe words, God proſper thee, whome if it pleaſe, that thou ſhalt liue to out liue the fortunes of this night, there was neuer man ſo deare, as thou ſhalt be to thy Lord: whereupon the Duke mounted, and with all ſpeed haſted to his ſhippes, where the ioy of his comming was ſo much the greater, by how much the feare before of his death was the ſtronger.

The Gentleman whom hee left behind, being vnluckely diſcouered, was vnfortunately ſlaine, which though the laſt, was not the leaſt honour he atchieued, to die in the ſafegard of his Prince. The Duke ſtayed long for his returne,

but at length ſuſpecting that which had happened, hoyſt ſaile and ſafely arriued in Swethland. It is a woꝛld to heare the concourſe of people that from all parts came to ſée him: Vpon the newes of his landing, they ſtrewd flowers in the way, as thinking the Earth vnwoꝛthy to beare him: they ſhewed all ſignes and tokens of ioy, as now holding themſelues free from thoſe feares, which the repoꝛt of his death had beſoꝛe poſſeſt them with. Now as men newly reuiued, they beganne to entertaine new hopes, and to flatter themſelues with a perpetuall ſtability of their eſtates: The Sunne, which they ſuppoſed had made an eternall ſet from their Hoꝛizon, did now ſhine againe in the middeſt of their Hemiſpheare, and this glad day, after their ſad night, they made a generall vow foꝛ euer to conſecrate. Thus as in a triumphant manner the Duke helde on his courſe, to Stockeholland, where the triumphes foꝛ his deliuery he found doubled, with the Dutches his wife, his kindꝛed and his neereſt friends, that in ioy of his returne feaſted many dayes together.

Duke Fernsbecke pꝛoud of the late victoꝛy, let ſlippe no time: but hauing the ſeconds of his power, ſafely landed out of Poland, recouered many of his townes and Caſtles which hee beſoꝛe had loſt, and which he holdeth at this day. Duke Charles did little that Summer, but that hee ſent certaine foꝛces to ſtrengthen thoſe pꝛincipall townes and caſtles in Leifland, which he yet holdeth. And in this Summer, not from any ambitious deſire of his owne, but the policy of the time, in the ſtate of the Kingdome, ſo requiring, at the ſpecial inſtigation of his friends, foꝛ the countries good, but pꝛincipally vpon reſpect of the churches peace, hee tooke vppon him the Crowne and Scepter of Swethland, in the yeare of our Lord God, 1604. which hee doth ſtill nouly and peaceably gouerne, as the ſtate of the time doth ſuffer. The wars being foꝛ the moſt part tranſferred into the Dukedome of Leifland. And thus as I am informed, ſtandeth the condition of the affaires of that kingdome at this time.

FINIS.